

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 516 RUEHC
 AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 26 RUSDLK
 INFO: AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 22 RUSBQD
 AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 34 RUDTC
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 32 RUEHHC
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 16 RUSBAE

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 3/25/89 (LAMBRAXIS, G.B.) OR-P

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, AF, IR

SUBJECT: Situation in Afghanistan

1. C - entire text.
2. Sultan Mahmud-Ghazi, member of Afghan royal family, former president of Afghan Civil Aviation and Tourism Authority, and brother of former Afghan Ambassador to Iran, visited Pol Counselor March 25 in connection with visa problem. He said he does not have extensive information on situation in Afghanistan, but had talked with people who have come from there as recently as three days ago.
3. He said rebellion is widespread and affects at least eight provinces. Afghan government has no confidence in most of its army, particularly the conscripts, and there have been cases of military units being bombed by the Air Force because they were believed to be untrustworthy. In Kabul security at night is carried out by many civilians and other Communists rather than the military. Indeed, the military are being kept out of the city to a great extent.
4. If the Afghan government had to stand alone, it would not last "for more than a week", according to Mahmud-Ghazi.

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However, he is sure the Soviets are bucking up the government and reinforcing it with racial Tadzhiks, Uzbeks and Turkomans from across the frontier. This is something which an outsider can never prove, since Afghanistan government can provide the identity cards at will.

5. Unfortunately, neither U.S. nor Pakistani nor Iranian governments appear to be interested in assisting the revolt. Iranians might possibly be providing some financial assistance, but they have no military, and their weapons are almost entirely U.S. or western style. Chinese weapons in the hands of the Pakistani would probably be useful in Afghanistan, on the other hand.

6. Above seems to fit with reporting from Kabul and other sources. Mahmud-Ghazi himself has refused offer of an Iranian passport provided he changes his nationality and has not lost hope of returning to Afghanistan when and if the situation changes some time.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ANAE-00 IO-14
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /094 W
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O P 251151Z MAR 79
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0516
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3213

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 3/25/89 (LAMBRAKIS, G.B.) OR-P
TAGS: PMS, PEPR, AF, IR
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

VISITED POL COUNSELOR MARCH 25 IN CONNECTION WITH VISA
PROBLEM. HE SAID HE DOES NOT HAVE EXTENSIVE INFORMATION
ON SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT HAD TALKED WITH PEOPLE
WHO HAVE COME FROM THERE AS RECENTLY AS THREE DAYS AGO.

3. HE SAID REBELLION IS WIDESPREAD AND AFFECTS AT LEAST
EIGHT PROVINCES. AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN
MOST OF ITS ARMY, PARTICULARLY THE CONSCRIPTS, AND THERE HAVE
BEEN CASES OF MILITARY UNITS BEING BOMBED BY THE AIR FORCE
BECAUSE THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE UNTRUSTWORTHY. IN KABUL

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 03213 251238Z

SECURITY AT NIGHT IS CARRIED OUT BY MANY CIVILIANS AND

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OTHER COMMUNISTS RATHER THAN THE MILITARY. INDEED, THE MILITARY ARE BEING KEPT OUT OF THE CITY TO A GREAT EXTENT.

4. IF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAD TO STAND ALONE, IT WOULD NOT LAST "FOR MORE THAN A WEEK". HOWEVER, HE IS SURE THE SOVIETS ARE BUCKING UP THE GOVERNMENT AND REINFORCING IT WITH RACIAL TADZHIKS, UZBEKS AND TURKOMANS FROM ACROSS THE FRONTIER. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH AN OUTSIDER CAN NEVER PROVE, SINCE AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE THE IDENTITY CARDS AT WILL.

5. UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER U.S. NOR PAKISTANI NOR IRANIAN GOVERNMENTS APPEAR TO BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING THE REVOLT. IRANIANS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE PROVIDING SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT THEY HAVE NO MILITARY, AND THEIR WEAPONS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY U.S. OR WESTERN STYLE. CHINESE WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF THE PAKISTANI WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL IN AFGHANISTAN, ON THE OTHER HAND.

6. ABOVE SEEMS TO FIT WITH REPORTING FROM KABUL AND OTHER SOURCES. [REDACTED] HAS REFUSED OFFER OF AN IRANIAN PASSPORT PROVIDED HE CHANGES HIS NATIONALITY AND HAS NOT LOST HOPE OF RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN WHEN AND IF THE SITUATION CHANGES SOME TIME.
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